



NEWS RELEASE

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

Media Contact:

Greg Mitchell, 741-2904 ext. 131

Email: greg.mitchell@state.tn.us

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Consumer Advisory

United Telephone Southeast, Inc. to Increase Rates December 1

Nashville, Tennessee –United Telephone Southeast, Inc. (UTSE) recently filed a tariff with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority in accordance with Tennessee law.

Beginning on December 1, 2005, UTSE will charge its customers within each of its calling groups one rate that will include residential Touch Tone Service charges and unlimited toll free calling throughout the Tri-Cities area.

UTSE's one rate will increase monthly local service rates by an amount ranging from \$2.43 to \$7.20 for residential customers and \$1.32 to \$13.91 for single line business customers. The tariff change will also increase rates for Lifeline customers by \$0.88 to \$3.27 monthly, but will expand the eligibility criteria to include persons who receive financial assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), public housing, and the National School Lunch Program.

Consumers may want to contact UTSE for more information. In addition, a complete copy of the tariff is on file with the TRA and is open to public inspection or may be viewed by visiting the consumer alert section of the TRA's website at <http://www.state.tn.us/tra>.

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